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ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD

July 1954 - June 1955

TORONTO








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# ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY

## ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD

July 1954 - June 1955

The year just ended has seen the planning of great changes. Dr. T. A. Heinrich of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, has been appointed as sole Director over all the Royal Ontario Museum. The Museum of Archaeology will be known as the Division of Archaeology of the Royal Ontario Museum, and the title of Director will not be used for its head. At the same time the present Director is retiring on grounds of ill health, and will be replaced by Professor A. D. Tushingham of Queen's University. He has been appointed Curator of the Modern European Department.

The sudden death of Mr. Robert Fennell, the Chairman of the Museum Board for the past ten years, will cause another change in the Royal Ontario Museum as a whole. It is too early to forecast what the effects of this event may be.

### A

#### Exhibition Programme

##### 1. Work in the Galleries

The South American Gallery has undergone a complete reorganisation during this year. This was badly needed, and it is hoped that its completion will put that gallery on a level with those on either side of it.

Gallery work on a smaller scale has proceeded in most of the Departments. In the Greek & Roman Department a frieze illustrating scenes from Greek life was painted by Miss Sylvia Hahn. Considerable research went into this, which is made up of small details on Greek vases, many of them in the Museum's own collection. A new display of Greek and Etruscan gems and jewellery has been arranged. In the Near Eastern Department a new installation of representative pieces from the large collection from Luristan has been completed; these are mainly bronze, with a few objects of silver and iron. Small changes were made in the Islamic gallery, a complete reorganisation of which is being planned. A number of individual case changes were made in other Departments. In the Textile Department the periodical rotation of collections was continued.

Considering the needs and responsibility of the



Museum and the way in which display reflects on its credit, this is a meagre list of work done. That it is so is the result of conditions in the Preparator's Department. There are seventy-four public galleries; and for all our gallery work that Department has a possible strength of four, two of whom are past heavy work. The number of three was arrived at about twenty-five years ago, and it has been possible to increase it by one since then. During that time the character of the Museum has changed completely; it has come into far greater contact with the public, and the demands on its staff have increased out of all recognition. If it is to carry out even the barest minimum of what it ought to, it is, in my opinion, essential that the Preparator's Department be increased in size. What used to be the special features of the Museum have been given up one by one over the past few years, and we have now reached a stage where both gallery work and regular Special Exhibitions of our own material have become impossible, and urgent checking and conservation of collections very nearly so. The Board's policy was short-sighted in the first place. It is now reacting most seriously on every branch of the Museum, and on the morale.

I have referred before to the condition of the veneered and inlaid furniture in the main floor galleries, particularly to the deterioration which was the immediate result of closing up the east windows. A report on the condition of this furniture was called for during the year, and it appears that something is being planned by the Superintendent's Department. At the time of writing this I do not know yet what this is to be; what I do know is that the state of that furniture is now so bad that the Museum, if it were honest, would refuse all further furniture gifts on the grounds that it was unable to look after them.

## 2. Study Storage Rooms

The usefulness of the Far Eastern Study Room has been increased by the introduction of a proper filing and checking system for all the objects it contains. The room is still in process of arrangement, and it is not yet clear how much it will really hold of the vast body of material we would like to store in it. The Near Eastern Study Room has been fully completed, and the moving of material into it has begun. It has also been used once as a lecture room for adults (accommodated on folding stools, since the room is too small for chairs) and proved satisfactory. It does, however, still need better lighting. The Greek & Roman Study Room is still in process of completion.

The usual activities were continued this year in the Textile Study Room. Two afternoons a week (instead of the usual one) were devoted to the Ryerson School of Technology, whose classes came from October to April. The



course given in the Museum is being changed from a fourth year to a third year course; this explains the unusually large number of students. The Toronto School of Design is to close this year with the retirement of Mr & Mrs. Sindon; these classes have been coming regularly to the Museum for 23 years. The Ontario College of Art classes have worked in the Study Room (as they have in the Textile Galleries) somewhat spasmodically. The fourth year Household Science course from the MacDonald Institute at Guelph worked in the Study Room this year, and is likely to continue.

### 3. Special Exhibitions

For reasons outlined above, Special Exhibitions of Museum material were impossible during this year. The Museum has been host to two touring exhibitions: "Design in Scandinavia" was shown in the Armour Gallery from October to November, and "Designer-Craftsmen, U.S.A." in the cleared first and second Greek Galleries from May to June. An experiment was made in these two cases of charging admission to Museum exhibitions: we were in fact forced to do so, as "Design in Scandinavia" cost \$3680.00 to bring. Admission charges to it were 50, 25 and 10 cents, and the catalogue was sold for \$1.50. 8443 people saw the Exhibition, and the receipts were \$4301.00. "Designer-Craftsmen, U.S.A.", arranged by the American Craftsmen's Educational Council, was brought here by the Museum and the Canadian Handicrafts Guild jointly. It was on a smaller scale, and admission charges were 35, 25 and 10 cents. The cost of bringing and arranging the exhibition was \$2656.09. 2240 people visited it, and the receipts were \$940.75.

The Museum's aim in bringing both exhibitions here has been to acquaint the Canadian public with the best contemporary work in our field being done in other countries. It appears that this is the most valuable contribution the Museum can now make to a much needed improvement in the standards of design and production of Canadian objects. Our ultimate aim must be to hold a comparable Canadian exhibition; at the moment it is too soon to say when that will be advisable. Whether this programme of bringing exhibitions from other countries for such a purpose should be continued is a question that merits discussion. These exhibitions are expensive and an admission fee has to be charged to recover costs. They do, however, repay much of the trouble taken on them by bringing the Museum in touch with people who might not otherwise know anything of it.

Three years ago the Museum held a summer exhibition of the Modern Pottery of England, Denmark and the U.S. Our intention in holding this exhibition was to make it the first half of a larger programme; the second half was to be an exhibition of modern Canadian pottery. This year it has



been possible to arrange the Canadian exhibition in connection with the Canadian Guild of Potters. The exhibition opened here on June 10th and will remain on show until the end of September.

Special Exhibitions on a smaller scale have been arranged by the Ethnology and Textile Departments. In the former Miss Baker arranged a short-term exhibition of the Musical Instruments of Primitive Peoples, with the cooperation of the Near Eastern and Far Eastern Departments and the Curator of Musical Instruments; this was designed to accompany a project of the Saturday Morning Club. In the latter a special selection of evening dresses dating from the early 19th to the early 20th century was displayed; in periods where there were several examples to be included the exhibits were rotated. This provided an opportunity of exhibiting a number of the highlights of the costume collection at one time.

The Object of the Month policy was continued during the year. The following objects have been shown:

July & August	Maori carved wood panel
September	Japanese lacquer box
October and November	Deichmann bowl (in connection with "Design in Scandinavia")
December	della Quercia Madonna
January 1955	Chinese horse and groom, circa A.D. 550
February	British Columbia stone totem
March	Egyptian figurine of Sen Ankh-wer
April	Roman glass from the Norton Collection
May	small Gandhara head
June	embroidered silk and painted silk panels, Chinese, 18th century

#### 4. Loans

##### a. Objects lent to the Museum

Collection of 37 modern Eskimo carvings, Lent by Mr. Marvin Goody.

Pair of Japanese 19th century cloisonné vases. Lent by Mrs. Irene Sniesko.

##### b. Objects lent by the Museum

Collection of B.C. artifacts. Lent to McMaster University for a temporary exhibition.

12 Paul Kane paintings of scenes around Regina. Lent to the Province of Saskatchewan for the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Province.

12 objects from the "Design in Scandinavia" exhibition. Lent for publicity purposes to the Chartered Trust Corporation.



- 25 objects from "Designer-Craftsmen, U.S.A.". Lent to the Canadian Handicrafts Guild for a similar purpose.
- 50 pieces from the "Canadian Ceramics of 1955" exhibition. Lent to the Canadian Guild of Potters for the same purpose.
- 63 swords and 71 polearms from the Museum's collection. Lent to the Army Museum, Halifax Citadel.

## 5. Exchanges

The two exchanges referred to in the last Report as being arranged by the Far Eastern Department have both been held up during the year, that with the Philadelphia Museum of Art by the absence of one of their Curators; that with the University Museum by difficulties in securing evidence of data for a group of pieces to be exchanged; this evidence is contained in a Chinese book belonging to our Library, but out on loan.

Correspondence which we hope will lead to exchanges is being carried on in the Ethnology Department, and although progress is slow it seems to be sure. That Department is not well placed for arranging exchanges of this kind; most of its surplus consists of undocumented Ontario archaeological material, which in general is not popular outside this country; the one main exception is in the field of African ethnology.

An exchange of Egyptian and West Asiatic material has been negotiated with the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.

## B

### Staff of the Museum

#### 1. Changes and Appointments

The most important changes - the appointment of a new Director, the resignation of the present Director, and his appointment to the vacant Curatorship of the Modern European Department have already been referred to. There have been a number of others. In the Far Eastern Department Miss Barbara Burry, who acted as Special Assistant to the Curator during last year, came on the permanent staff of the Museum. In the Ethnology Department Miss Roberta Caldwell resigned her position. It has not been possible to fill it suitably at the very low salary the Museum pays - for a Department with world-wide scope such as this considerable qualifications are required - and two temporary half-time Assistants have been taken on. Mrs. Rosamund Vanderburgh, the new general Assistant, is a graduate in Anthropology from Radcliffe, a student of North Western



University and a candidate for a doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania. Miss Gillean Baker, a recent graduate of the Ontario College of Art, was taken on as a Special Assistant in display.

Mrs. Margaret Spence resigned from the Near Eastern Department when her husband was moved to London, Ontario, in April 1955. She has been temporarily replaced by Mr. John Ruch. Miss Helen Mary McNichol, formerly Assistant to the Chief Cataloguer, left the Museum to pay a visit to Europe in February, and is expected back towards the end of the year; it is hoped that she will then be a permanent appointment in the Near Eastern Department. In the Textile Department Miss Mary Horan came on the staff replacing Miss Hahn, who had left on her marriage. Miss Clark was married in October, and the half-time Curator, Mrs. Brett, was then appointed full time, and the staff of the Department reduced to two.

## 2. Research and Special Work of the Staff

No excavation was possible during the summer of 1954, due to an absence of funds. It is hoped that during 1955 the Museum and the Department of Anthropology may jointly resume the work on the Serpent Mounds at Rice Lake begun by Mr. Harper three years ago.

Work on the Ontario Textile research project continued, and a detailed report is included. This research consisted of a few days in the Campbellford district completing work started there the year before, and work in the St. Lawrence Seaway area. This was carried out in June and July 1954 by Miss Clark and Miss Hahn. What was possible was done, but for successful work in that area three weeks to a month and adequate transport are required; neither condition existed. As was found the previous year in Brockville, each visit had to be begun by explaining what the Royal Ontario Museum is: Ottawa and Montreal are the urban centres to which that part of the province looks. Relations with the Ontario Hydro in this area were not always easy, since, varying with the official spoken to, either everything had already been done in the way of preserving original sites and buildings, or nothing could yet be done.

Special studies have been made by Miss Needler on the two relief sculptures of Metjetjy recently acquired with the help of the Reuben Wells Leonard fund, on the iron dagger from Luristan and on the "Mit-Rahineh" faience fragments. Dr. Graham made a study of a torso of the Venus Anadyomene type with unusual markings, recently given to the Museum by Mrs. Shelley. During a visit to Williamsburg in January 1954 Mrs. Brett had identified the flower designs on one of the chintzes in the Wearne Collection as



being similar to a group of flower prints in the Williamsburg collection by Robert Furber, an English nurseryman, dated 1730. The identification was later confirmed. In the Far Eastern Department Miss Burry has been carrying on research during the year on an example of early Japanese wood sculpture, the Fujiwara period Buddha.

During the year Miss Fernald has been largely engaged in overseeing the taking of 375 black and white and coloured photographs for the Catalogue of the Chinese collection being prepared with the financial help of the J. P. Bickell Foundation. One third of the text of the first volume has almost been completed, and it is expected that the volume will be ready to go to press by the middle of October next. The inventory of the Chinese collection as a whole was finished by the end of July 1954, giving the Museum as complete a record as can be attained. This was the work of Miss Burry and Mr. R. R. Moyer of the Department of Art & Archaeology.

Museum photography has been one of the problems of the year. We have never had a reliable and reasonably cheap photographer since the disappearance of the University Photographic Service. During the year various branches of photography have been entrusted to different photographers - Mr. Walter Curtin and the Photographic Arts Company, both professionals, and Mr. E. J. Stone and Mrs. K. E. Kidd, both skilled amateurs. This system works well on the whole, but is not satisfactory.

### 3. Publications

Bulletin Nos. 22 and 23 of the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology. The former included five articles:

- H. E. Fernald, A Buddhist Stone Sculpture
- J. W. Graham, Bronze Statuette of a Comic Actor
- W. Needler, Sculpture from the Tomb of Metjetjy
- K. E. Kidd, Fashions in Tobacco Pipes among the Iroquois Indians of Ontario
- K. B. Brett, The Harry Wearne Collection of Painted and Printed Textiles: Part Three

The latter included four articles:

- H. E. Fernald, Six Bronze Vessels from China
- J. W. Graham, A Torso of Venus
- K. E. Kidd, Paul Kane, Painter of Indians
- M. Spence and W. Needler, An Iron Dagger from Luristan

- G. Brett, The Automata in the Byzantine Throne of Solomon. Speculum, vol. XXIX, July 1954, No. 3, pp. 477-487



G. Brett A Reredos by Jan Borman at the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology, Toronto, Canada, Gazette des Beaux Arts, VI<sup>e</sup> Periode, Tome XLIV, July-August 1954, pp. 47-56.

King Solomon, Ars Quatuor Coronatorum  
vol. LXVI, 1953, pp. 80-103

K. B. Brett, Bouquets in Textiles, Antiques, Vol. LXVII, No. 34, April 1955, pp. 308-311

H. E. Fernald, Chinese Treasures added to the Collection of the Royal Ontario Museum, Saturday Night, December 11, 1954.

K. E. Kidd, Trade Goods Research Techniques, American Antiquity, vol. 20, No. 1, July 1954, pp. 1-8

A Woodland Site near Chatham, Ontario, Transactions of the Royal Canadian Institute, vol. 30, part II, 1954, pp. 141-178

A Note on the Palaeopathology of Ontario, American Journal of Physical Anthropology, vol. 12, n.s., No. 4, December 1954, p. 6

W. Needler, Review of V. G. Childe, New Light on the Most Ancient East, 1952; Phoenix, vol. 8, No. 4, winter 1954, pp. 166-7.

During the year the Museum stock of postcards was renewed by the printing of twenty-one black and white and two coloured postcards; a third colour card was made, originally as a Christmas card, for the Consolidated Press in 1954, and is also on sale in the Museum. An experiment is being made with the sale of coloured 2 x 2" slides at the Sales Desk this summer. Forty-three have been prepared by this Museum. Plaster casts from a number of Museum objects have been made for sale during the year.

#### 4. Lectures

In the Textile Study Room lectures have been given in University Courses (8), University Extension courses (10), the Ontario College of Art (5), the Ryerson Institute (32), the Toronto School of Design (6) and other Toronto and outside groups (6). In all sixty-five lectures were given; the attendance was 1015.

Other members of the Museum staff have given lectures to University courses, Extension courses, and to other groups. Nineteen such lectures, closely connected



with the collections of the Near Eastern Department, were given by Miss Needler.

### 5. Visitors to the Museum

H. R. H. the Duchess of Kent visited the Museum on August 28th, 1954, and was escorted around the galleries by Dr. Sigmund Samuel and Miss Fernald.

The Far Eastern Department reports 220 visitors inquiring on points connected with the collection. They brought an average of one object each for identification; and 25 of these visits involved tours in the galleries. Fifteen people have come to make serious study, and were here up to three or four days. There have been anything up to six phone calls of inquiry every day.

The Ethnology Department has received 111 visitors making calls of inquiry and 110 phone calls for a similar purpose, in the first five months of this year. Over 500 such letters have been answered.

In the Near Eastern Department, Professor W. B. Emery of the University of London visited the Museum in connection with a lecture given to the Archaeological Institute of America. He spent a good deal of time on the early dynastic Egyptian material from Abydos, which is closely parallel to and contemporary with the material he is at present excavating at Saqqara.

Early in May 1955 Mr. and Mrs. Rae Garner visited the Museum to show a film on ancient Egypt, "Journey into the Past: Egypt". This showing brought some 900 visitors, and the Museum theatre was filled twice on one hot evening. Mr. and Mrs. Garner spent some time in the Greek galleries on the following day photographing objects for their forthcoming film "Journey into the Past: Greece".

From April 19th to 21st, 1955, the American Oriental Society met in the University of Toronto. The Museum Board entertained the members of the Society to tea on April 20th, and the relevant galleries remained open until 6 p.m. on that day. Many members came to the Museum on other days also.

### 6. Activities outside Toronto

The Director and Mrs. Brett visited Museums at Rochester, Boston, Providence and Cooperstown during April 1955.

In August Mr. Kidd visited the newly found petroglyphs near Stony Lake and photographed them. In October he made a trip to Ear Falls in the Red Lake district, and



made a short reconnaissance of the area; he continued by train to Winnipeg to see the collection of oil paintings, sketches and artistic remains of Paul Kane, now owned by the artist's grandson and offered for sale. In March 1955 he attended a conference on a "Proposal for a Regional Ethno-Historical Study by American and Canadian Institutions" at Albany. In April he read a paper before the meeting of the New York State Archaeological Association at Rochester.

Miss Needler visited New York and Philadelphia in June to study collections and work in the Libraries of the Brooklyn and Metropolitan Museums in New York and the University Museum in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Gill, Assistant in the Modern European Department, visited and studied in the Metropolitan and Cooper Union Museums in New York, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Mrs. Brett gave a lecture on "Chintzes - the Influence of the East on the West" to the University Women's Club in December 1954.

Dr. Graham left in May 1955 to spend the summer in Greece and the Eastern Mediterranean.

## C

### Reports of Special Departments

#### Report of the Chief Preparator

##### CONSERVATION-RESTORATION

A great deal of the year has been devoted to the restoration of the Chinese tomb figures, a task made necessary by the book being written on the collection. The major part of the work was the removal of unsightly re-paints, but in many cases a complete restoration was necessary to complete the detail.

The year has been normal in respect to restoration of objects in the Museum's permanent collections. This is also the case with the bulk of material for special exhibition and material lent to other institutions. It has been the rule to restore such objects so that they may be shown to the best advantage.

Some of the restoration needed on objects in the permanent collections has had to be shelved, as our commitments are too many to allow us to carry out conservation



and restoration of these collections.

Restoration of the Paul Kane paintings had continued. Several more of the paintings have been relined, cleaned and placed in the gallery.

A number of paintings and water-colours, new acquisitions for Canadiana, have been restored before being placed in the gallery.

Early last fall a number of pieces of furniture were removed from the gallery and restored. The entire collection is in need of attention in one way or another, but it has been impossible to find the time to carry out this very necessary work. The collection suffers very much from constant changing of temperature and humidity, and this is something over which we have at present no control.

With the Department's heavy commitments for Special Exhibitions there was no routine conservation, and none of the interiors of cases or of the objects contained in them were cleaned during the year. This is one task we must resume, not only for the general appearance of the galleries, but also for the conservation of the objects on display.

All objects on exhibition and in storage have been examined and were treated where necessary; it took two men two weeks to go through all textiles, skins and furs, and to treat them for purposes of conservation.

#### DISPLAY AND GALLERY RENOVATION

The major part of the staff's time, including that of the cabinet shop, has been spent on special exhibitions and gallery renovation. The three large exhibitions for which this Department was responsible (Design in Scandinavia, Designer-Craftsmen, U.S.A., and Canadian Ceramics of 1955) have taken so much time that routine staff work has of necessity been nil. These Special Exhibitions, added to the normal rotating of our own collections - 3 exhibitions in the Canadiana Gallery, 3 exhibitions of Japanese prints, 3 exhibitions of European prints, The Object-of-the-Month, changes in gallery display - and to the Canadian Painter-Etchers' show, have created a trying situation for the small staff.

One gallery renovation, the Peruvian gallery, is in process of completion. Much of the work has been done by the Ethnology Department, but calls are still made on the staff of this Department to help complete the work. Many contemplated changes in the gallery have been shelved for lack of staff.



## HISTORICAL MUSEUMS

The increased activity in Historical and Pioneer Museums has meant a continuous demand for advice and general help on display and conservation. We have given advice freely, and have lent a number of obsolete cases to these Museums on a Permanent Loan basis. The following Museums have been assisted in one way or another during the year:

Bruce County Historical Museum, Southampton  
Huronian House, Midland  
Niagara-on-the-Lake Historical Museum  
Dundas  
Collingwood

## PUBLIC INQUIRIES

A great many requests are made by telephone and letter, mostly for information on conservation of personal possessions. Many of the inquiries deal with arms and armour; a number of guns and rifles have been examined, and information as to date, maker, etc. given to the owner. Although these inquiries take up a lot of the time of the staff they provide contacts with private collections, and many useful items have been added to the Museum as a result.

## LECTURES

Lectures have been given to Art & Archaeology students, Extension courses, and the Model Engineering Society, all of them dealing with materials and techniques.

## Art &amp; Archaeology:

- "Metals, Casting and Conservation"
- "Paintings - Restoration and Conservation"
- "Furniture - Tradition, Style and Conservation"

## Extension:

- "The Making and Conservation of Traditional Furniture"

## SURVEY

In a report of this kind, tabulating the work accomplished during the year, it is impossible to state adequately the volume and diversity of work the Department is called on to perform. In former reports I have pointed out the need for extra staff. The reason for this is obvious, and if help is not forthcoming soon we will have to abandon a number of the tasks that have been our responsibility in the past - those concerned with display and special exhibitions. More time must be spent next year on routine conservation and restoration, regardless of



other commitments,

The Preparator's staff, which is responsible for the security, conservation and restoration of all Museum material, can no longer be responsible for other commitments without an increase in size. No object is moved in the Museum without involving this Department, which in most cases has the responsibility of the whole undertaking. There is not one day in the year when we can plan to do our own special work. With the Department so short-staffed it is impossible to give continuous time to one project uninterrupted by the urgency of another, and have anything concrete to show for the effort. In former reports I have made a strong plea for additions to the staff to take care of the growing volume of work; the coming year will be as arduous as this has been, and without more staff it will be impossible to do more than cover current work.

William Todd

#### Report of the Chief Cataloguer

The Cataloguing Department has had another very busy year. In nearly every category the volume of business increased over the previous year. New acquisitions were received from 187 sources, and involved the completion and assembling of records concerned with the numbering and cataloguing of over 1280 objects, compared to some 700 the previous year. Material listed for identification was checked in and out from 291 persons this year, 270 last year. 58 loan collections were sent out, 57 last year. Arrangements were made for 58 shipments by express, the untallied remainder by van or truck, and for some 17 shipments imported on approval, as against last year's figures of 35 and 12. In cooperation with the University Customs Clerk four "loan exhibitions" were imported, one containing 600 objects. 53 items were numbered and catalogued as indefinite loans, compared to 23 last year.

The work of the Department has been carried on this year under the handicap of two staff changes. Miss McNichol, the Assistant, resigned in February, and her replacement was with us only three months, having to resign for personal reasons much against her will. Miss Gould, the present Assistant, has been on the staff one month. The statistics given above, however, show no let-up in pressure of routine work, which was accomplished by overtime and sheer effort of will.

The renumbering and recataloguing of backlog material into the new system has been continued only in the case of objects required for publication, display or



loan. No tally was kept of this, but there was considerable work done on the Far Eastern material due to the preparation of the Curator's Catalogue of the Chinese collections, and the inventory of the galleries and storage rooms. Every Department shared in this service also, and transfer operations have been continuous throughout the year. The records of donations prior to 1948 have nearly all been transferred to the new system, resulting in greater accessibility.

The important job of affixing the numbers to recatalogued old acquisitions is a serious and urgent problem. A strong recommendation was made in the last two reports for assistance, with no results. Considering the amount of time required to paint a neat and legible figure on one object, it can be readily seen that taking care of the year's current acquisitions alone was a problem in itself. When old catalogue numbers are cancelled and new ones assigned to be used in all future references, the new ones must be put on the items concerned, or it is pointless to change the numbers at all. If we are not to turn this new system into a complete joke, a third person MUST be provided as soon as possible, with skill enough to produce quick, neat and accurate figures on the backlog material. In the past year the farming-out method was tried, whereby departmental assistants put the numbers on their own recatalogued material. This was only moderately satisfactory, and at best a makeshift method. This operation is the responsibility of the Cataloguing Department, and no proper check can be kept on the work if it is handled in this way. This becomes even more serious with every staff change. In paragraph 5 of my previous report I made an earnest plea for help, and for 14 months there has been no one to do this work. Understanding the affairs of the Museum were in flux we had not expected any immediate change, but felt that the situation was most apparent, and that provision would be made for assistance. However, far from offering a solution to the problem, the results were most dismaying, the question instead being completely sidestepped. At all times this Department has striven to oblige as quickly as possible in the performance of any tasks required of it, but it must always carry the responsibility of seeing that the records are accurate and complete. It has therefore every right to expect the services of adequate, competent and trained personnel, and to refuse to carry on with anything less. Beginning in July, therefore, there will be no further renumbering of backlog material for any purpose whatever until such assistance is guaranteed.

I have been told that no tangible improvement has been planned in the ventilation of the Cataloguing Department office. Once again the hot weather has arrived and we are now forced out like smoked bees. Recorded tempera-



tures have averaged 91 degrees, and have frequently reached 96. Apart from the health standpoint, the wisdom of having material deposited in such a temperature is most questionable. The long-range plans for proper air-conditioning are of no help, and I appeal for relief of this situation. Casement windows, as in the room next door, were recommended before, and I do so again, as a means of reducing the temperature and changing the air at breathing level. The insulation of the heat tunnel which passes directly under the floor would improve considerably the working conditions in this room in hot weather. Above all the installation of a fan is recommended to carry off the hot air in summer and the fumigation fumes in winter. I sincerely hope that earnest thought and effort will be forthcoming for relief, if only temporary, of this situation.

I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. Spendlove, who during his daily visits to this Department assisted in the identification of the majority of the objects brought in for examination pertaining to the Modern European collections.

Because of the pressure of University customs commitments, I have been asked by the Customs Clerk to request a reduction in the number of imported exhibitions. All arrangements of this sort are done by Miss Wynn herself, and all other work must be set aside in the meantime. This is not always possible, and deadlines are met by her for us by effort far and above the call of duty.

In the coming year this Department plans to keep abreast of current and routine business, and to finish off the recataloguing of already-numbered backlog material. With the completion of the transfer of donor records, the files on the Dealers will be overhauled in like manner. This, in effect, is all we can anticipate for the next year, with the training in of a new person, for with the reorganisation of the Museum a greater volume of business is expected.

Elizabeth Burt-Gerrans

### Report of the Library

This year the Library has increased by 166 books, fifty-four of which were gifts. Mr. & Mrs. Harold Burnham have given over forty books, mostly on textiles, which are important to the Textile Department.

There are at the moment 500 books out, but still it is necessary to keep books on the tables. The period-



ical shelves are already crowded: thirty of them come at least four times a year, with the result that two sets of magazines have to be kept in one of the offices. More students are using the library, and as the tables cannot be cleared both the books and the students suffer. This has been mentioned every year, and it has now reached a point where the whole work of the Library is increased and hindered by this lack of space.

### Report on Ontario Textile Research

Trip to Prince Edward, Leeds, Grenville, Dundas, Stormont and Glengarry Counties, July 12th to 16th, 1954, by V. Clark and M. Hahn:

This trip was taken primarily to assess what information and material there was to be found in these counties. The headquarters from which trips were taken were Morrisburg, Prescott, and Cornwall. Names for contacts were drawn from Presidents and Historical Convenors of Women's Institutes, with a few from Ontario Textile files.

As was anticipated, the distance between points of call was greater than in the more westerly parts of the province, and therefore fewer contacts could be made in a day. However, we found that everyone was most cooperative; there is material, much of it of medium quality, but some of the linen appears to be complex weave and unlike any hitherto examined. It would seem that up to quite late in the last century wool and flax fibres were being prepared on the farms and much of it sent out to local professional weavers.

It was decided to cover the area planned in the itinerary rather than follow up new leads. We now have a good overall picture of the possibilities of the area, and a sufficient number of names for the files to warrant at least another trip.

Number of people visited, 15

Number of pieces seen, 22 - (blankets, 6; coverlets, 8;  
linen, 5; carpets, 1)

Photography, none, due to poor weather

Number of new contacts, 20, plus 10 from Mr. Smart.

Expenses, \$55.75

Mileage, 975 miles

Mills, 3

Weavers, 4



## Report of the Sigmund Samuel Canadiana Collection

The Sigmund Samuel Canadiana Gallery has had a busy and constructive year. Visitors numbered 10,334 for the eleven months ending May 31st, as against 10,138 for the same period of the previous year. Public interest has been increasing in all respects in a most satisfactory manner. The use of the Gallery for school groups of all ages by the Division of Education, Royal Ontario Museum, has been found to be a valuable teaching aid, and increases yearly.

The following exhibitions have been held in the Gallery:

to September 12, 1954: EARLY HISTORICAL SCENES IN CANADA

Sept. 14 - Feb. 20/55: THE BIRTH OF A NATION: Two Centuries of Pictorial Americana

Feb. 22 - June 14: EARLY PICTURES OF CANADA 1760 - 1860

June 14 - : EARLY FRENCH INFLUENCES IN NORTH AMERICA

Each exhibition has been preceded by a Reception and Preview. The Gallery has also been used for receptions for the Canadian Association for Adult Education on October 7th, on the occasion of the Opening of the addition to the University Library on November 27th, for the York Pioneers on April 5th, and the Canadian Historical Association on June 3rd.

A large number of microfilm pictures of the collection were made for the publication YEAR for its illustrated History of the United States. Some of these are appearing in the History which will not be for sale until July, 1955. The unused microfilm pictures paid for by YEAR have been returned to the Gallery and are used for slide and enlargement purposes. It is hoped to have the Gallery's entire collection on microfilm within a year or two. A considerable number of coloured slides of pictures belonging to the Gallery have been made, and a Revere automatic projector purchased, which has been found very satisfactory.

The unique Krieghoff painting "Officer's Trophy Room" was reproduced by Rolph-Clark-Stone Ltd. as a calendar, and coloured prints made of it are being sold at the Museum and the Gallery. Another fine Krieghoff painting "Krieghoff's Cottage at St. Ann" has been reproduced by the Copp-Clark Co. Ltd., and it is hoped that prints from it will be available for sale before long.

F. St.G. Spendlove



## RECOMMENDATIONS

## Staff

I have referred to the Preparator's Department staff in the section above dealing with Work in the Galleries. This is a serious problem, and I feel I must again point out to the Board that in the past few years this Museum has been giving up its special features - notably Special Exhibitions of our own material - one by one. We have now reached a position where even the urgent periodical conservation of our objects is only just possible. If the Museum is to continue the programme on which it has been working, and if it is to accomplish what both the public and the University expect from it, then an increase in this branch of its staff is urgently needed. If the Museum is to attain any of the goals we would all like it to, and increase its work and services in any way, then this increase is all the more necessary.

As the report given in full in part 3 reveals, the Chief Cataloguer is also in very serious need of staff assistance. During the present interim years, while the backlog of old material is being recatalogued at the same time as the new material coming into the Museum, the pressure of work on that Department, numbering two, is very great. The Report makes it quite plain that the Department has now reached a point at which a continuation even of the vital tasks is impossible. Further assistance is urgently and immediately needed. I recommend both these points to the Museum Board with the utmost seriousness.

## Space

In my Report of last year I referred to the problem of Dr. Mu's Library and the satisfactory accommodation both of it and of the Chinese Archaeology library. The former of these belongs to the University, the latter to the Museum. The problem has been to find a satisfactory spot where the Department of East Asiatic Studies and Dr. Mu's library can be effectively and conveniently housed. During the year I put forward a recommendation on this subject to the Museum Board, which I believe was accepted and approved. If put into practice it should solve at one blow the problem of space for both the University and the Museum Department involved, and for the two libraries.

The Main Library on floor 1M of the office block is most seriously short of space. I do not see how any effective increase of space can be made until the large office on that floor, now occupied by the head of the Department of Anthropology, is free. I therefore again



recommend that most serious efforts be made to find alternative accommodation for that Department. Should they be successful many of the space problems of the Museum would be solved.

Another aspect of the matter of space is that of the Main Floor galleries and their supply of air. I have referred to this at some length both in my last Report and above. I take this opportunity of bringing the matter to the attention of the Board again, and repeating the recommendation that an adequate supply of properly cooled air be made for at least the galleries containing the veneered and inlaid furniture. The results of a failure to do so will be very serious.

### Collections and Finance

A detailed list of the Gaps in the Museum's collections was called for by the Museum Board in January, and presented in May. It is a fairly long list, in which all seven Departments are represented, and seems to me to represent the most practical approach to this problem. I recommend that the most serious attention be paid to it.

In this connection I must repeat the recommendation I have already several times made that the Purchase Grant be increased. As I have pointed out before, \$5000.00 a year, in most fields of the Antiquities market, will not now even purchase one major object. I ask the Board to agree with me that for a Museum of this kind the figure is utterly ridiculous.

During this past year the Museum used part of a surplus in its Salaries Account to contribute to the excavations being carried out at Jericho by the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem. This calls itself a Museum of Archaeology, and as such it should both carry on archaeological work itself and keep in touch with the results of other work of the kind. In the past several years we have done neither. The contribution to the Jericho work, indeed, represents the first contact we have had with other people's work for a great many years, and is a very valuable way of increasing the collection with recently excavated objects. The practice of making any such contribution when it is possible is one which I strongly recommend to the Board.

### Industrial Design

In addition to work in the ancient field I feel that a Museum such as this must enter the modern one also if it is fully to justify the position it holds. It is laid down in the Royal Ontario Museum Act of 1947 that we should do so, but I cannot feel that sufficient attention



has been paid to this. The aim should be the improvement of the quality of modern objects produced in this province and country; demonstration by exhibition is the best method a Museum has at its disposal for doing that. There are, however, a number of preliminary stages which I feel we must go through in a gradual process of this kind. The possible methods we should use at present are, in my view

a) The bringing to this Museum of touring exhibitions of the modern work of other countries, as was done this year with the exhibitions Design in Scandinavia and Designer-Craftsmen, U.S.A.

b) The holding of small Canadian exhibitions in preparation for the larger one. This was done this year with Canadian Ceramics of 1955.

c) The firm realisation that the Museum must interest itself in both the machine and the craft fields, and that both should be represented in the final stage when it is reached. In practical terms this means that we must work with the National Industrial Design Council for the one and the Canadian Handicrafts Guild for the other. Design in Scandinavia was mainly the former, Designer-Craftsmen, U.S.A. wholly the latter.

These are general principles. They mean in practice

1. The allocation of a certain sum of money to this each year. This would be used for building up a small Museum collection of first-class modern objects; and for staging lectures on the subject by outstanding designers, craftsmen and producers during the winter months.

2. The holding of a small annual exhibition in the fall of each year of Well Designed Objects available in Toronto stores and costing less than \$25.00 (this has already been approved by the Board).

3. The addition, even if only temporarily each year, of one member to the Museum curatorial staff to look after these plans.

I realise these plans are positive in a way Museum plans seldom are, and that we are bound to adopt a more didactic position in this matter than we generally do. I feel that we should be prepared to do this and to accept the risks that are involved. I so recommend to the Board,



## Principal Acquisitions

1. Far Eastern Department

6 Chinese bronze vessels, Shang and early Chou. Gift of the Estate of Reuben Wells Leonard.

K'ang and 2 cupboards, folding chair and reclining chair, Chinese, 17th and 18th century. Gift of Mrs. Edgar Stone.

Selection of textiles and china, Japanese and Chinese, mainly 18th and 19th century. Gift of Miss Amice Calverley.

Chinese k'o-ssu elbow cushion, probably 18th century. Gift of Miss Helen Fernald.

4. early pottery jars from Szechuan. Gift of the Estate of James Endicott.

Bronze Fang-i vessel, with inscription, Chinese, Shang. Purchase

Bronze dagger axe (KO) with haft cap in shape of a bear, Chinese, Chou. Purchase.

Bronze spoon, Chinese, Middle Chou. Purchase.

Noh mask of okina wood, Japanese, 16th century. Purchase.

2. Ethnology Department

Colonial style coca bag from Bolivia. Gift of Miss Lillian Waddell.

Basket from the Attu Islands. Gift of Mrs. J. Tuttle.

Set of Apache playing cards on rawhide. Gift of Mrs. R. E. Van Dyke.

War club from Manitoba. Gift of Mr. L. S. Usher.

Cree birch bark bowl. Gift of Mr. Frank Yeigh.

Stone pipe from Ontario. Gift of Mr. Harry Whalen.

Soapstone pipe from Ontario. Gift of Mr. E. R. Rolph

Stone tools from Sheguiandah. Gift of the National Museum of Canada.



2 ceremonial sarongs, one sledang and a silver temple bowl from Indonesia. Purchase.

Silver money box of Moro craftsmanship, from the Philippines. Purchase.

2 bronze figurines from the Gold Coast, caricaturing Europeans. Purchase.

Fine silver bowl, Tiahuanaco culture (A.D. 500-1000). Purchase.

2 examples of modern Eskimo stone carving. Purchase.

### 3. Near Eastern Department

Relief sculpture of the Scribe of the Royal Treasury Mya: a group of mourning women. Egyptian, late 18th dynasty. Gift of the Estate of Reuben Wells Leonard.

Relief sculpture: three offerers inscribed "King's Mother, God's wife Tuya", "The Royal Scribe, Head of the Treasury of the Two Lands Tjiya", and "The Lady of the House, the Songstress of the Great Amun, Royal Sister and Noble Favourite Tjiya". Egyptian, early 19th dynasty. Gift of the Estate of Reuben Wells Leonard.

2 Egyptian bronze signet rings; one 26th dynasty, the other Ptolemaic. Gift of Dr. Elie Borowski.

Egyptian scarab, glazed steatite, Hyksos period. Gift of Mr. W. E. H. Munro.

Arabic magical bowl, tinned copper, 19th century (?). Gift of Dr. Vrithoff van Konijnburg.

Piece of gold overlay with repoussé decoration, from Zawiyeh, Iran, Assyrian period. Purchase

Egyptian statuette, steatite, New Kingdom (?). Purchase.

### 4. Greek & Roman Department

Bronze figurine of Aphrodite, Etruscan, 5th century B.C. Purchase.

### 5. Modern European Department

6 tin-enamelled earthenware plates, English, dated 1741. Gift of Mr. D. McLeish.



Pocket sundial with ivory case, English, 19th century.  
Gift of Mr. E. R. Rolph.

Grandfather clock by John Tetlow, English, 1715.  
Bequest of Miss Vivian Bowles.

Ebony bracket clock by Joseph Knibb, London, about  
1680. Purchase.

2 17th century English slipware plates. Purchase.

Soft paste porcelain dish, French, St. Cloud, early  
18th century. Purchase.

## 6. Textile Department

Schiaparelli dress, 1938. Gift of Mrs. O. D. Vaughan.

Collection of lace, mostly Italian needlepoint and  
pillow lace. Gift of Mrs. James Macdonald.

Series of 34 pattern drafts, some dated in the 1840's  
Ontario, Prince Edward County. Gift of Miss A.  
Abercrombie.

Handwoven coverlet, four-harness overshot weave,  
Ontario, about 1841. Gift of Mrs. O. D. Vaughan.

Handwoven coverlet, doublefaced twill, Ontario,  
Vineland, probably woven by Samuel Fry. Gift of  
Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Burnham.

Handwoven coverlet, eight-harness overshot weave.  
Ontario, Dundas area. Gift of Miss Florence Lyons.

Handwoven tablecloth, double-faced twill, Ontario,  
Kitchener area. Gift of the Hon. Mr. Justice Wells.

Painted panel, Chinese, early 18th century; drawn from  
the same cartoon as an embroidered Chinese panel  
already in the Museum's collection. Purchase.

## 7. Canadiana Department

### Quebec Gallery (Main Building)

Chest of drawers, butternut, French Canadian, 18th  
century. Gift of the R. Laidlaw Lumber Co. Ltd.

Silver b nitier with sprinkler, by L. Amiot, Quebec,  
early 19th century. Purchase.



## The Sigmund Samuel Canadiana Gallery

## Oil Paintings

"Market Place, Quebec" and "Place d'Armes, Montreal"  
by W. H. Bartlett, circa 1840.

"Quebec, 1759" and "Montreal, 1760" by Dominique Serres.

"Louisbourg, 1745" by Peter Monamy.

"Quebec, 1838" showing frozen St. Charles River,  
by Sir R. G. A. Levinge.

Full-length portraits of Henri IV of France and Marie  
de Medicis, by Francois Pourbus the Younger, and a  
head of Louis XIII by the same painter. Painted  
about 1610 and 1620 respectively.

Portrait of George IV by Sir William Beechey.

Portrait of Admiral Sir Peter Warren by Thomas Hudson  
(1701-1779).

## Water Colours

Large view of Niagara Falls with picnic party, by  
J. P. Cockburn.

Cape Diamond, Quebec, by Lt. Hallowell, XXth Regiment.

Montreal from the River, by W. H. Bartlett.

View of Quebec by James Peachey (apparently the  
original of the famous print.) About 1784.

3 small Cockburn water-colours of the Gates of Quebec.

Wash drawing of Victoria Bridge, Montreal, about 1860.

View of Toronto by Captain Caddy, early 19th century.

Sketch-book of Quebec, 1827, with 16 views signed J.C.

"Engagement between the 'Bonne Citoyenne' and the  
'Furieuse'" by G. Webster.

7 pictures of Canadian Indians, unsigned.

## Drawings in Pencil and Pastel

2 Canadian views in pastel by Holdstock, mid 19th century

4 pencil drawings of Quebec, c. 1850, apparently the  
originals of the Sarony and Major prints,



## Prints

The publication "Itineraire Pittoresque du Fleuve Hudson", by J. Milbert, Paris, 1828, with its complete list of 54 plates.

"Charlestown, S.C." completing set of the "Schographia Americana", published 1770-80.

## Books

Original volume by Samuel de Champlain, "Les Voyages de Sr. de Champlain, 1627"

Governor Pownall's Map of North America, and "Description of British Possessions in North America".

First Gazetteer of New York State.

"America" by Arnold Montanus, 1671, with view of Nieu Amsterdam.

## Medals

Gold and enamel badge of the Baronetcy of Nova Scotia, as authorised by Charles I in 1629.

Queen Victoria's medal for Arctic Exploration, 1850.

Medals commemorating the Death of Wolfe and the Capture of Louisbourg, and Governor Generals' medals of the Earl of Dufferin and the Marquess of Lansdowne.

Gold Governor General's medal of the Marquess of Lansdowne. Gift of R. O. Petman, Esq., to Dr. Samuel.





